

Gen. Sedgwick can profitably serve elsewhere, and that Gen. Meade, likewise, rapidly approaches the termes of his command.

RUMORS CONCERNING McCLELLAN.

The town persists, to-night, in crediting rumors that McClellan is to be placed in command of the defenses of Washington. The more enthusiastic of his friends are disposed to bet that Gen. Grant has come in from the front for the express purpose of insinuating that McClellan may be put at the head of the Army of the Potowmack. Each set of these credulous friends is in error.

PERSONAL.

To-day the President with Gen. Grant at his side, and the Secretary of War and Gen. Haleck seated opposite, ride out in Mr. Lincoln's carriage.

GEN. SMITH'S OPINION OF GEN. McCLELLAN.

The prevailing impression that Gen. Baldy Smith is filled with what Count Czowski calls "McClellanism" is entirely an error. He was among the first of the Generals on the Peninsula after the collapse before Yorktown to denounce McClellan, officially and unequivocally, as incapable, and it is true that he brings Gen. Grant's entire confidence in him as a strategist, an engineer, and a fighting man.

BOUNTY TO FREE COLORED VOLUNTEERS.

Opinion of Mr. Schleiter Whiting relative to the payment of bounty to free colored volunteers:

The act of March 2, 1862, "for enrolling and calling out the national forces and for other purposes," as amended by the act approved February 24, 1863, provides that "all able-bodied colored men between the ages of twenty-one and forty-five years, residing in the United States, shall be enlisted and made part of the national forces, and shall be liable to be drafted."

As these acts now stand, they provide for three classes of colored men:

1. Colored men who have been enrolled and drafted; these are entitled to the arrears of pay and bounty as provided for other volunteers.

2. Slaves of loyal masters who shall have been, or shall be, drafted.

3. Slaves of loyal masters who shall volunteer, or have volunteered.

In each case, besides the bounty or compensation paid to the master, the slave is entitled to his freedom.

No provision of bounty or pay is made in this act for free colored volunteers.

It is now before Congress which, if passed, will provide for the last mentioned class also, bounty and additional pay.

WILLIAM WHITING,
Secretary of the War Department.

To the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, March 26, 1864.

The message from the President transmitted to the Senate in response to a resolution of that body calling for information in relation to alleged projects for establishing monarchical Governments in Central and South America covers a communication from Secretary Seward, who reports to the President that the snakes and jealousies are constantly ruling on the subject to which the resolution refers, which are brought to the notice of the Department by our Representatives abroad; but there is no correspondence or other form of information which furnishes any trustworthy proof showing the existence of plans for the accomplishment of the objects mentioned. Any correspondence which might be regarded as embodied in the resolution, being very vague, is in its nature confidential, and its publication at the present time would be inexpedient with the public interest. The communication was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Brig.-Gen. David B. Birney, U. S. Volunteers, has been confirmed as a Major-General in the volunteer service, his commission to date from May 20, 1863.

WASHINGTON, March 27, 1864.

THE TEN-FORTY LOAN.

There is the best authority for saying that no national banking association has yet been authorized to receive subscriptions in account of the national ten-cent loan. Letters are in preparation, however, and will be immediately forwarded to all national banking associations which have been qualified and designated as depositaries and financial agents, authorizing them to act as agents in receiving subscriptions for the ten-cent loan. The compensation allowed is one-fourth of one per cent, out of which the cost of advertising and all other expenses of obtaining subscriptions must be defrayed.

THE DRAFT IN KENTUCKY.

Gov. Bramlette of Kentucky and ex-Senator Dixie of the same State, who arrived here on Friday evening in Washington. Their business with the President is in reference to the draft. Those who profess to be well acquainted with that subject confidently say that so difficult is apprehended as to the execution of the draft under the mandatory enrollment not in the State, and that all proper measures will be taken by the Government to prevent military exercises or any curtailment of the rights of the citizens; and, moreover, they assert that Kentucky will promptly furnish her full quota under the draft.

MOVEMENTS OF TROOPS.

For several days past our streets have been more than ordinarily lively with the movements of troops of all kinds.

GEN. F. P. BENTON.

Gen. Pleasanton and staff are in Washington, with other prominent military officers.

BURGLAUGHS MEN OF THE NINTH CORPS.

The following General Order was issued to-day:

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
ARMED FORCES, WASHINGTON, March 27, 1864.

All authorized signers of the General Orders, commanding the forces, regiments, battalions, &c., in the field, and other commanders will facilitate the execution of this order. By Command of Lieut.-Gen. GRANT.
E. D. TOWNSEND, Assistant Adjutant-General.

XXXVTH CONGRESS....First Session.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, March 25, 1864.

The session to-day was devoted to speechmaking.

SPEECH OF MR. MORRISON OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Mr. MORRISON (from the floor) said that this was an important and delicate moment. It was a wicked and perfidious attempt to destroy the Union and free government, and establish on their ruins a hateful despotism, with the aid of European intrigue. The man who sympathizes with it is a traitor, and would betray his country. His speech in condemnation of the course of President Buchanan, and the encouragement given to the Rebels to commit war, and predicted that the day would come when the false friends of the Union would be compelled to make amends. The President had hitherto administered the Government and had scrupulously regarded public and private rights; hence the people demanded his reelection. Proclamations of emancipation are not alone sufficient; we should resort to legislation to make the destruction of slavery complete; and to that end there should be an amendment to the Constitution. Our financial success will make our country the favored spot of all the earth, and the asylum of the oppressed of every nation, where merit and honest labor will receive their full reward.

SPEECH OF MR. LINCOLN OF NEW YORK.

Mr. LINCOLN (from the floor) argued that this was an important and delicate moment. It was a wicked and perfidious attempt to destroy the Union and free government, and establish on their ruins a hateful despotism, with the aid of European intrigue.

The man who sympathizes with it is a traitor, and would betray his country. His speech in condemnation of the course of President Buchanan, and the encouragement given to the Rebels to commit war, and predicted that the day would come when the false friends of the Union would be compelled to make amends.

They are making no calculation for this, but are shaping everything for a prolongation of the conflict. If they had desired to restore peace and the Union they might have done so long ago. Every soldier must be numbered by the Administration, and every dollar spent was so much abstracted and lost to the honest labor of the country. It was the last great moment of suspense. If they fail to do this, they were morally guilty of treason. Our financial operations had produced barren results.

Their military aims of the dominant party had the war alive as the best means of prolonging their power. They contended that they had no right to interfere with the domestic institutions of the South, and that this was done by the insane worshippers of the negro. As for the Democracy, they would close the war as soon as they could compatible with honor, and independent of the Presidential election.

The salvation of the country depends more upon the ballot-box than upon our armies. Some hope may be expected from Gen. Grant of satisfactory military results; but with the abolition party politized domination to hold superior to the restoration of the Union. Robert Lincoln, and the war will continue in his second term. The plunders and contractors will prosper, while the public debt will be come too great to bear.

SPEECH OF MR. ECKELLY OF OHIO.

Mr. ECKELLY (from the floor) argued that in the reporters' gallery was the rebellion to review the inception and the progress of the rebellion, and the political influences which produced it, and to advocate a vigorous prosecution of the war to secure its finality.

SPEECH OF MR. HARRINGTON OF INDIANA.

Mr. HARRINGTON (from the floor) argued that before the emancipation proclamation there was peace, but con-

scription law, the hideous features of which it was now sought to conceal by the plea of military necessity. The President and his wicked advisers had dishonoredly broken faith with a generous and confiding people; armed power was paralyzing and overshadowing the rights of the people; the war was prolonged to pull down the white man to an equality with the negro, and for that the President uses remorselessly the blood of the Nation. The acts of the President mark the path which led to the French Revolution, which produced the name of universal liberty, disgraced humanity. Under this Administration, there was no hope of a compromise. He saw no way but to keep and supply our armies in the field, but held the mal-administration of the Presidents responsible before the people. The Union and the Constitution must be restored, and this could be done only by the people. He declared the ordinances of Secession void, and that the Constitution and laws of the Seceded States were in full force, and only needed the removal of treasonable obstructions to resume their strength.

Mr. HARZOG (Border State, Ky.) asked why, after spending three thousand million dollars, and sacrificing eight hundred thousand lives, we have not peace. The answer would be found in the fact that the Administration and its party have betrayed the cause of the Union and become a revolutionary party, making war not to restore the Union, but to erect a different one on its ruins. He charged that they had violated their solemn pledges and themselves furnished evidence of their own disloyalty. He argued against interference with the institution of slavery, and declared that the President was a self-styled self-declared "emancipator."

The House at 4 o'clock adjourned.

Fires.

FRONT STREET.

The third floor of No. 250 Front street, occupied by W. O. MILLS & Co., dealers in pictures and antiques, was slightly damaged by fire on Saturday evening. Loss about \$200, principally by water damage. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. Fire Marshal Baker is investigating the cause.

CITY ITEMS.

SAFETY FAIR.—Now that the buildings for the great Metropolitan Sanitary Fair are almost completed, and the arrangements for the opening on the 1st of April nearly perfected, contributions by the east and drag-lead are hourly arriving, and taken charge of by the Receiving Committee. The ordnance department, which will occupy a portion of the building constructed on the Fourteenth street sidewalk, is nearly in order, and from a peek into the vast apartment we should think that it will be one of the most attractive, as well as interesting, features of the exhibition. The firemen are working like beavers, and will present a showy department. Washington Hook and Ladder Company, No. 9, gave a chapter party the other evening for the benefit of the fair, and, in addition to the large amount of money that they have contributed, a variety of costly and beautiful souvenirs.

The steamer Germania, which arrived from Hamburg on Thursday, brought many costly gifts from the owners of stately mansions, who, notwithstanding the exciting epoch on the Schleswig-Holstein war, shrank from giving expression to their sympathy for our brave soldiers.

At a meeting of the Booksellers' Committee on Friday evening, Mr. Fletcher Harper read a communication from a dealer in books, who modestly stated that he presumed his Committee had not yet received him on account of his "peculiar position and his peculiarities," and begged to be excused for \$1,000.

Stephen Brooks & Co. have handsomely headed the list of druggists contributions with a subscription of \$1,000.

In addition to numerous other relics to be exhibited in the Curiosity Department of the Fair, there will be some fine and valuable mementoes of the late Sir John Franklin's expedition, consisting of sundry articles found on King William's land by Capt. McClintock's expedition in 1859. They are exhibited by Capt. Parker Snow, who was on the Arctic Search at the time the Baron and Kara were up there in the Arctic. Among other curiosities will be a model of Washington's Headquarters, Newburgh, made by John Miller, and a portrait of George Washington by George C. Ulrich, and severely injured that she died at the New-York Hospital on Sunday morning. The deceased was a widow aged 25 years, resident at No. 147 Elm street, and leaves two children. Clara was engaged and held to await the action of the Coroner. Thomas Morrissey, aged 45 years, fell down stairs at No. 108 East Twenty-second street on Wednesday last, from the effect of which he died yesterday morning at the New-York Hospital.

IMPORTANT ARREST.—A mail agent on the Hudson River Railroad between Troy and New-York, named Diamond, was arrested in Troy on Friday night, and is now in jail in Albany, on the charge of having embezzled \$1,000,000, which he had received for the express of Peter Lynch, Peter and Patrick Murphy, and others.

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THE HIPPODROME.—The manager of this great hippodramatic establishment has made preparations for the Easter holidays. Several new and elaborately decorated performances will be made out to day. Mr. Henry Cooke's performing dogs and monkeys, of course, remain during the holidays, and the great English steeple chase will be represented throughout the week. Mr. Sam Long, a celebrated and most humorous American clown and vocalist, is among the new comers, and makes his first appearance this evening. There will be a matinee for ladies and children every day this week.

THE EASTER SERVICES.—The festival of Easter, commemorative of the resurrection of Christ, was celebrated yesterday by services according with the character of the joyous occasion in all the Episcopal and Roman Catholic Churches of the city. The appearance of many of these churches was truly beautiful, and the fragrance from the thousands of flowers in the fonts and about the chancels pervaded every edifice. The floral designs in St. Thomas' Church were clear and elegant, crosses and Easter emblems of flowers ornamenting the center gospel and epistle side, the font and pulpit. The festival of the schools connected with the church had 1,500 children in attendance.

This is to accommodate the public. Those who are disposed to call at their clubs or subscription offices for their papers can subscribe in advance. There will be a matinee for ladies and children every day this week.

The Rev. Dr. STORES repeats his address, recently given here and at Washington City, at Stamford, Conn., this evening on "The Nation after its Ordeal of Battle."

CONNECTION.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: Seeing your report of the robbery in my house during the fire on Wednesday evening last, which does me great injustice, I beg of you to give publicity to the following statement: That, after a full and careful investigation before the magistrate, the entire innocence of Mr. Davis was clearly established, and he was honorably discharged. The connection with the thief, I am sorry to inform, was entirely removed from his person, which he had brought up from New York for a dealer in the article in Troy, and he had been in the habit of doing so.

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CLEANING, DYEING, AND REPAIRING FURNITURE.

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